

Claims

1. A method, including steps of  
sending a first certificate from a first entity, said first certificate including  
security information regarding at least a second entity, said first certificate including  
information authenticating a second certificate from said second entity; and  
sending said second certificate from said second entity;  
whereby a recipient of said first certificate and said second certificate can  
authenticate from information therein a first set of security information to associate with  
said first entity and a second set of security information to associate with said second  
entity.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one of the following  
includes a root certificate: said first certificate, said second certificate.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein  
said first certificate includes both an expiration date and information  
authenticating a third certificate; and  
said third certificate includes an expiration date other than said expiration  
date for said first certificate.

1           4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said first certificate includes  
2 information authenticating a certificate from said first entity other than said first  
3 certificate.

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5           5. A method as in claim 1, wherein said first certificate includes  
6 information authenticating a future intended version of said first certificate.

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8           6. A method as in claim 1, wherein said second certificate includes  
9 information authenticating a third certificate.

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11           7. A method as in claim 1, wherein  
12 said second certificate including security information regarding at least a  
13 third entity, said second certificate including information authenticating a third certificate  
14 from said third entity;  
15 and including steps of sending said third certificate from said third entity

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17           8. A method as in claim 1, wherein said security information includes a  
18 set of authorizations for said second entity.

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20           9. An article of manufacture, said article including a computer data  
21 signal embodied in readable medium, said readable medium including at least one of the  
22 following: a carrier wave, a memory, or a storage device; said data signal including

1 a first certificate indicating a first entity as its source and including (a)  
2 security information regarding at least a second entity, and (b) information authenticating  
3 a second certificate from said second entity.  
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5 10. An article as in claim 9, including a second certificate indicating said  
6 second entity as its source; whereby a recipient of said first certificate and said second  
7 certificate can authenticate from information therein a first set of security information to  
8 associate with said first entity and a second set of security information to associate with  
9 said second entity.  
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11 11. An article as in claim 9, wherein at least one of the following  
12 includes a root certificate: said first certificate, said second certificate.  
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14 12. An article as in claim 9, wherein  
15 said first certificate includes both an expiration date and information  
16 authenticating a third certificate; and  
17 said third certificate includes an expiration date other than said expiration  
18 date for said first certificate.  
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20 13. An article as in claim 9, wherein said first certificate includes  
21 information authenticating a certificate from said first entity other than said first  
22 certificate.

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14. An article as in claim 9, wherein said first certificate includes information authenticating a future intended version of said first certificate.

15. An article as in claim 9, wherein said second certificate includes information authenticating a third certificate.

16. An article as in claim 9, wherein said second certificate including security information regarding at least a third entity, said second certificate including information authenticating a third certificate from said third entity;

and including steps of sending said third certificate from said third entity

17. An article as in claim 9, wherein said security information includes a set of authorizations for said second entity.

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